

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising of type I collagen and BMP-4.

2. A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising of type II collagen and BMP-4.

3. A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising of type I collagen, hyaluronate and BMP-4.

4. A method for inducing or enhancing chondrogenesis in cells comprising the step of exposing said cells to a matrix composition comprising of type II collagen, hyaluronate and BMP-4.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said composition further comprises GDF-5.

6. A method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein said step of exposing said cells occurs in vivo.

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein said step of exposing said cells occurs in vivo.

8. A method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein said step of exposing said cells occurs in vitro.

9. A method according to claim 5 wherein said step of exposing said cells occurs in vitro.

10. A method according to claim 6 wherein said cells comprise joint tissue.

11. A method according to claim 7 wherein said cells comprise joint tissues.

12. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type I collagen containing an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

13. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type II collagen containing an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

14. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type I collagen and hyaluronate containing an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

15. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type II collagen and hyaluronate containing an effective amount of BMP-4 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

16. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type I collagen containing an effective amount of a combination of BMP-4 and GDF-5 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

5 17. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type II collagen containing an effective amount of BMP-4 and GDF-5 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

10 18. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type I collagen and hyaluronate containing an effective amount of BMP-4 and GDF-5 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.

15 19. A composition comprising an extracellular matrix of type II collagen and hyaluronate containing an effective amount of BMP-4 and GDF-5 sufficient to induce or enhance chondrogenesis.